

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 806

To establish a mail-order pharmacy pilot program for TRICARE beneficiaries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To establish a mail-order pharmacy pilot program for
TRICARE beneficiaries.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “TRICARE Mail-Order
5 Pharmacy Pilot Program Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MAIL-ORDER PHARMACY PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall
8 conduct a pilot program to—

9 (1) educate eligible covered beneficiaries about
10 the mail-order pharmacy available under TRICARE;
11 and

1 (2) motivate such beneficiaries to voluntarily in-
2 crease use of the mail-order pharmacy.

3 (b) SCOPE OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot program
4 shall include not less than 2,000 eligible covered bene-
5 ficiaries in each TRICARE region, of whom not less than
6 1,000 in each TRICARE region shall be enrolled under
7 part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act. An eligible
8 covered beneficiary chosen to participate in the pilot pro-
9 gram shall be an individual who—

10 (1) has filled a prescription in the TRICARE
11 retail pharmacy program for a medication intended
12 for long-term use; and

13 (2) has not used the mail-order pharmacy.

14 (c) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot pro-
15 gram shall begin not later than October 1, 2009, and shall
16 continue for two years.

17 (d) ADMINISTRATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—In ad-
18 ministering the pilot program, the Secretary of Defense
19 shall—

20 (1) offer mail-order medications within the uni-
21 form formulary to participants at no charge;

22 (2) provide each participant a notification letter
23 explaining the advantages of the mail-order phar-
24 macy, including convenience and cost savings;

1 (3) provide each participant with a personalized
2 summary indicating the cost savings such partici-
3 pant would have realized had the participant used
4 the mail-order pharmacy during the previous 12-
5 month period;

6 (4) provide each participant with simplified ap-
7 plication and instruction guidelines and such other
8 information as the Secretary considers useful to en-
9 courage use of the mail-order pharmacy; and

10 (5) survey participants to determine—

11 (A) the understanding of and satisfaction
12 with the mail-order pharmacy;

13 (B) the factors that motivated the partici-
14 pant to use or not use the mail-order pharmacy;

15 (C) the specific reasons for any dissatisfac-
16 tion with the mail-order pharmacy;

17 (D) the extent to which the participant
18 considers the information described in para-
19 graph (4) helpful;

20 (E) the extent to which the participant
21 would recommend to others the use of the mail-
22 order pharmacy; and

23 (F) suggestions for ways to further in-
24 crease use of the mail-order pharmacy.

1 (e) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult
2 with representatives of beneficiary associations in—

3 (1) designing and conducting the pilot program;
4 and

5 (2) evaluating the results of the pilot program.

6 (f) REPORTS.—Not later than March 1, 2010, and
7 each 180-day period thereafter for 1 year, the Secretary
8 shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the
9 House of Representatives and the Committee on Armed
10 Services of the Senate a report on the pilot program, in-
11 cluding—

12 (1) the extent to which participants increased
13 their use of the mail-order pharmacy;

14 (2) the extent to which the use of the mail-
15 order pharmacy affected pharmacy costs for both the
16 Department of Defense and participants;

17 (3) summaries of the results of participant sur-
18 veys described in subsection (d)(5) (to the extent the
19 results are available on the date of each report);

20 (4) an assessment of the effect of eliminating
21 the copayment for medications ordered through the
22 mail-order pharmacy;

23 (5) whether to expand the pilot program to in-
24 clude all eligible covered beneficiaries; and

1 (6) any other analyses, observations, and rec-
2 ommendations the Secretary considers appropriate.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) The term “eligible covered beneficiaries”
6 has the meaning given such term in section
7 1074g(g)(1) of title 10, United States Code.

8 (2) The term “mail-order pharmacy” means the
9 national mail-order pharmacy program required by
10 section 1074g(a)(2)(E)(iii) of title 10, United States
11 Code.

12 (3) The term “participant” means an eligible
13 covered beneficiary described in section 2(b) that is
14 chosen to participate in the pilot program.

○